NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MANAGERS

OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION

FOR THE

INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND.

Presented to the Corporators,

At their Annual Meeting, February 2, 1852.

PHILADELPHIA:

JOHN C. CLARK, PRINTER, 68 DOCK STREET.

1852.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE CORPORATORS,

AT THEIR

ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 2, 1852.

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Corporators of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, was held at the Institution on Monday afternoon, Feb. 2, 1852, at 4 o'clock.

Hon. Samuel Breck, President, in the Chair.

The minutes of the last annual and adjourned meetings of the Corporators were read.

The Annual Report of the Board of Managers was then presented and read, and on motion, it was—

Resolved, That the Report be accepted, and that with its accompanying documents it be referred to the Board of Managers this day to be elected, with instructions to print such portions of the same as they may deem advisable.

The meeting then proceeded to elect Officers and Managers for the ensuing year.

Mr. Parsons and Dr. Kirkbride, acting as tellers, made report, that the following gentlemen were duly elected, and they were declared Officers and Managers to serve during the ensuing year.

President.

SAMUEL BRECK.

Viee Presidents.

R. M. PATTERSON, M.D. JOHN K. KANE, ALBERT G. WATERMAN, J. FRANCIS FISHER.

Corresponding Secretary. FRANKLIN PEALE.

Recording Secretary.
THEODORE CUYLER.

Treasurer.

GEORGE W. EDELMAN.

Consulting Physician.

CHARLES D. MEIGS, M.D.

Managers.

THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE, M.D.

JOHN A. BROWN,
WILLIAM R. LEJEE,
JOHN C. CRESSON,
ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M.D.

ALFRED L. ELWYN, M.D.
CASPAR MORRIS, M.D.

A. V. PARSONS,

JOHN A. BROWN,
WILLIAM R. LEJEE,
ISAAC ELLIOTT,
J. C. BOOTH,
THOMAS C. JAMES,
W. H. DRAYTON,
MORRIS PATTERSON.

The minutes were then read and the meeting adjourned.

THEO. CUYLER.

Ree. See'ry.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

FINANCE.

William R. Lejee,

John A. Brown,

Isaac Elliott.

INSTRUCTION.

Dr. R. M. Patterson,

Dr. A. L. Elwyn,

J. Francis Fisher.

Dr. R. Dunglison,

John C. Cresson.

HOUSEHOLD.

Albert G. Waterman,

Jacob G. Morris,

Dr. T. S. Kirkbride,

Morris Patterson,

W. H. Drayton.

ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE.

Franklin Peale,

Anson V. Parsons,

J. C. Booth.

HOME.

Jacob G. Morris,

Franklin Peale,

Dr. T. S. Kirkbride.

A. G. Waterman,

Dr. C. Morris,

Thomas C. James.

FEMALE VISITERS.

Mrs. C. D. Meigs,

Mrs. A. G. Waterman,

Mrs. R. M. Patterson,

Mrs. F. Peale,

Mrs. J. K. Kane,

Mrs. J. F. Fisher.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

Principal.

WILLIAM CHAPIN.

Principal Teachers.

HENRY DUTTON,

ELIZABETH A. NOVES.

Assistant Teachers.

DAVID LOUGHERY.

HANNAH GUILLAN, MATILDA HANKINS.

Teacher of Music.

W. SCHNABEL.

Assistants.

EDWARD MACK.

SARAH ANN DANDY.

MARIA GILL.

Master of Handieraft. EDWIN T. MINTIRE.

Assistant.

Augustus Cruser.

Mistress of Handieraft.

Mrs. Leah Ann Sharpless.

Assistant.

RACHEL LEARD.

Matron.

MRS. ELIZA WHITE.

Assistant Matron.

MISS REBECCA COLLINS.

Printer and Storekeeper.

MICHAEL SNIDER.

Salesman.

J. E. WARNE.

Visiting Physicians.

A. E. STOCKER, M.D.

W. B. PAGE, M.D.

NINETEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, present to the Corporators their Nineteenth Annual Report.

The Report of the Principal this year, to which they refer with great pleasure and approbation, is so perspicuously drawn up, and so fully sets forth the chief topics under his supervision, that the Board has thought best to shorten their own remarks, in order to recommend a more particular and more careful perusal of his Report.

It will be found to treat very ably the highly important subject of a new department lately established, called "The Home," and which the Board is happy to say, has worked so well, after several months' trial, that they confidently believe in its future success, and feel a proportionate relief in their anxiety for the present large class of graduates who

eonstitute "The Home," and the welfare of the many who may profitably become members of it hereafter.

This subject is strongly urged upon the attention of the Contributors and upon the public. For the rest, we most willingly bear testimony to the general good management of the Institution in all its branches; and renew the expression of our entire satisfaction thereat, as arising mainly from the vigilant and constant attention of the Principal, in his faithful administration of every thing committed to his government.

SAMUEL BRECK,

President.

January 1st, 1852.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL.

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS:

Gentlemen,—In conformity to the By-laws of the Institution, I respectfully report that the number of pupils and graduates in the work departments, on the 1st of January, 1851, was ninety-three; at the present date, 1st of January, 1852, there are one hundred and seven, viz.

Number reported last year, -	-	93
Discharged,	-	11
Died at home,	-	2
Received during the year, -	-	27
Remaining in the Institution,	-	107
Of these, there are—		
From the State of Pennsylvania,	-	76
,, Maryland,	-	12
,, New Jersey,	-	11
,, Delaware,	-	3
From other places,	-	5
Total,		107

Of this number, nineteen support themselves wholly, and ten in part, by employment in teaching

and work furnished by the Institution, and six are pay pupils in full or part.

It will be perceived, that the number of pupils and workmen has been steadily increasing since January 1, 1850, from 84 to 107. The enlargement of our buildings, and the increased annual appropriations by the Legislatures of Pennsylvania and Maryland, conveniently admit of this addition to our numbers. It may be fairly assumed that the Institution is at this time faithfully earrying out its benevolent mission, and fulfilling in great part, if not entirely, the cherished hopes of its founders. Those of your honourable Board who have watched over its interests with anxious eare from its earliest history, are now realizing the maturing fruits of their labours.

The pupils have enjoyed their usual good health through the year. No deaths have occurred within our walls; but two worthy young men (Benjamin Wattson and Horatio Kerr,) died at their own homes, one by an accident, the other from fever. They were much esteemed by their teachers and fellow pupils.

The resignations of Mr. A. Schmitz as music teacher, and Mr. C. H. Meyer as master of handicraft, took place on the 1st September last. Mr. Meyer had been faithfully engaged in the work department for sixteen years. Mr. W. Schnabel has been appointed to take charge of the music department, and Mr. E. T. M'Intire of the workshop. Both these gentlemen bring qualifications of a high order, and have given entire satisfaction in their important branches.

The principal teachers, Mr. H. Dutton and Miss E. A. Noyes, in the school department, and Mrs. L. A. Sharpless in the female work department, have faith-

fully devoted themselves to their several responsible duties. The services of Mr. M. Snider, in connexion with the manufacturing department and other important duties of the Institution, are commended to your particular favour. The good order and cleanliness of the household, and the punctuality of its domestic arrangements, give satisfactory evidence of the ability and energy of the matron. Mrs. E. White, in that department. Miss R. Collins as assistant matron, and all connected with the instruction and interior administration of the Institution, are also entitled to your continued confidence.

As the details of our method of instruction have been so frequently given in previous reports, I propose to confine myself here chiefly to topics of more general interest, and such as have become with all the older institutions. of commanding importance: viz.—the employment and future welfare of the pupils.

Our course of studies embraces such as are usually pursued in our best Grammar and High Schools, with the addition of vocal and instrumental music, and several useful trades. Foreign languages are not taught. Our pupils attend to the more practical subjects, and make as good progress, perhaps, as the average of seeing children. Nearly all who come while young learn to read the Bible printed in raised letters. They obtain a good knowledge of Geography. Arithmetic, Geometry and Algebra. History and the Moral and Natural Sciences are taught orally; some of which are illustrated by experiments with apparatus. Three or four hours a day are spent in the school studies, two or three in music, and two or three in the workshops. The older pupils give more

hours to work. And those only who have a superior talent for music devote more hours to that study. These all vary according to circumstances; and a sound discretion must determine what shall be best for the interest and happiness of the pupil hereafter.

While the main purpose of the Institution is general education, some adults of good character have been admitted for limited periods, to learn trades only. After one year they are permitted to work on wages. Some who are thus employed, labour from 10 to 11 hours a day.

The entire time of the pupils is profitably and agreeably employed between their school and musical exercises and labour. A recess of ten minutes is given every hour, and other longer periods for exercise and recreation. On the Sabbath they are required to attend public worship in the churches of their own or their parents' choice. No Sectarian faith or peculiar religious doctrine is ever inculcated within our walls. But the religious duties of our common faith are enjoined.

Public exhibitions are given every Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 5 o'clock. Visiters have an opportunity of examining the work rooms and the articles made by the pupils until 4 o'clock, when a musical entertainment and exhibition of the method of instruction occupy one hour. There are no examinations of school studies on these occasions, and very little preparation is made. They produce no excitement in the minds of the pupils. They are of such ordinary occurrence as to pass almost without special note with us, and are not regarded as having any particular moral effect on the dispositions of the

pupils one way or another. The Institution continues them as a matter of great convenience both to itself and the community, and as an important means of selling a considerable amount of the pupils' work.

The community have a rational desire to visit the public institutions. And while we are careful not to permit the intrusions of euriosity to interfere with the regular operations of the school, we have thought it expedient to gratify this desire, by an arrangement which at once gives the least disturbance to the school and the highest interest to the public.

We are accustomed of late to look with growing interest to the reports of the older institutions of our country, for the development of their policy, with regard to the employment of the graduate pupils. To such institutions this has become a matter of pressing interest. And where shall we refer, if not there, for sound views and opinions based upon experience?

Three only of the institutions in this country (the Massachusetts, New York and our own), have thus far done any thing, on a regular plan, for the employment of the pupils after their term of instruction has expired. Their reports contain valuable matter for eonsideration. The suggestions and principles put forth by the able director of the Massachusetts Institution, in his late report, are entitled to a careful eonsideration. As a gentleman of large experience, who has exhibited an untiring zeal in this and other objects of philanthropy, his opinions are received, as they deserve to be, with the highest respect. Yet, acknowledging all the weight which thus attaches to individual judgment, under eircumstances so favourable to form just conclusions, I find myself compelled

to differ from some of the principles and reasoning of his last annual report. In discussing, therefore, the plan and action of this Institution, the policy proclaimed elsewhere will necessarily pass in review. This will be done in the spirit of kindness which should always animate those who are eo-operating in the same good cause.

It is admitted by many who have had the benefit of experience, that to give our system the character of completeness, we should furnish employment to such of our pupils, after they are educated and have acquired trades, as have no homes or find it impossible to obtain a livelihood by their own industry elsewhere. And this duty should be commensurate with our ability.

The three institutions above named are now actually doing this to some extent. But while we agree in the general object, there are important differences to be noted, involving the real welfare in future time, of hundreds of worthy and industrious blind persons, on whom an expensive education will be bestowed, who will be employed or cast off upon the world, as one or another policy may prevail.

The Massachusetts Institution requires its workmen to board out, and come to the workshops daily, like other mechanics. Those who are unable to support themselves in this way are discharged. The reasons for this are set forth by the director with his usual ability.

The New York Institution has erected a commodious edifice on their grounds, at a cost of \$15,000, where most of their male and female graduates are boarded and employed; being charged for their board

and receiving wages according to the amount of labour performed.

Our own Institution gives employment and board and wages to all connected with its work departments. The males (eleven in number) occupy another building on the premises, under the immediate care of Mr. M'Intire, master of the workshop, and his wife, where they have the domestic and social comforts of life, with the privilege of visiting their friends at pleasure. While their number is limited, they will continue, for the convenience of the Institution, to take their meals at the general table.

The females in the work department have all been educated in the Institution, and still reside in the same building. They occupy a separate apartment while at work. Several of them continue their connexion with the musical classes, and give as well as receive instruction one or two hours a day, for which a moderate compensation is given. They are allowed the full selling prices for the articles they make, and are charged a moderate sum weekly for board, varied according to their ability. A settlement is made monthly with all the persons thus employed.

We regard the moral and social influence of these females resident with us, who are generally intelligent and well educated, as decidedly favourable to the general good order and well being of the female section of the Institution. And although now placed on a different foundation from the rest of the family, their removal to a separate building at this time would be not only undesirable, but a positive mutual detriment. They still enjoy some of the intellectual advantages

of attending, work in hand, the lectures and reading classes in history and general knowledge.

We have the above eleven females and six of the workmen already alluded to, organized into a work department, designated as "The Home for the Industrious Blind." The benevolent object of this establishment has been given in some detail by a Committee of your Board, of which the honourable President was chairman. This incipient organization may be varied in its form as experience shall suggest. But it is important to remark that its benign feature is to give, to the extent of our power, employment to all of good moral character who have spent a term of years with us, and who are unable to support themselves elsewhere.

Whether this plan will be carried into full effect by the erection of a large building, with its separate workshops, dining and lodging rooms, as in New York; or by obliging its workmen to seek boarding places in families out of the Institution, as in Boston; or whether it will be a modified form of both these plans combined; are important questions not yet perhaps to be ultimately decided. Indeed it may be questionable whether any of the institutions have sufficient experience before them to pronounce absolutely and definitively upon any permanent plan. And it therefore becomes us to make cautious steps in our onward progress; and especially to adopt such rules of action as shall accomplish the most good with a given amount of means, consistently with the permanent safety of the Institution.

I think it is not difficult to prove that to adopt a rule of employing those only who can fully maintain

themselves by boarding out of the Institution, and rejecting all others, would be partial in its character, and fail to accomplish the greatest good. It would exclude those who are equally worthy with others in every respect, on whom the same pains and expense have been bestowed, but who, with all their industry, fail to come up to the exact measure of their expenses when obliged to board elsewhere.

It is admitted, indeed, that such a system must keep down the number of workmen by excluding some persons who have not sufficient energy to earn quite enough for their support, and that some of these may be estimable persons who deserve all sympathy and aid. It is admitted also, that there is no provision made for those most unfortunate persons who are thus excluded by a rule which retains none but such as can support themselves.

An institution cannot of course be held responsible for not attempting more than it is able to do. But if its policy limits the good it might do. if it professedly excludes those whom it might employ by a more economical plan, entirely consistent with its safety, it evidently falls short of its whole duty. Nor does it seem to be a satisfactory answer, to say that others may take up what it leaves undone. It belongs to the managers of our institutions, above all others, to see that the indigent and homeless, but educated and industrious blind, are provided for in situations where their utmost energies may be applied, though they may not yield quite enough for their support. No one else can or will provide employment for them. And to consign them to private charity, or the alms house, can never be entertained as a judicious course.

But while no system of benevolence can be sound or safe which outstrips its means, or entails evils greater than those it would remedy; and while the present organizations of our establishments for the education and employment of the blind, fall short of the expectations originally entertained of them and still cherished, it is surely our imperative duty to inquire whether some further measures are not practicable.

This is what is here humbly attempted, in connexion with what has been already commenced, as a Home or Industrial Department. We cannot hope to suggest any plan that will be free from all difficulties and objections. But we think there are some fundamental principles that may be recognised, and which should govern our hopes and aims, which may excite to higher energies, to increased resources, and to the adoption, finally, of a comprehensive plan, embracing, with few exceptions, all those worthy cases which should be the special objects of our care.

The general principles of our Home Department may be substantially stated as follows:—

- I. It is a separate establishment, exclusively for labour, growing out of the Institution, and under its control.
- II. It is required to be, as far as possible, but not indispensably, a self-supporting department.
- III. It is to be maintained in its necessary expenses beyond its own income from labour, entirely by funds to be raised and devoted specifically for that purpose.

Beyond any annual surplus means which may be applied, it is never to become a charge upon the In-

stitution, or in any respect to impair its legitimate operation as a school of instruction.

IV. The inmates of this establishment must be of moral and industrious habits, elected by the Board and retained during its pleasure.

V. In order to encourage the industry of all graduate pupils without other means of self-support, board will be furnished at cost to those who may be unable to board elsewhere, and employment on wages, as far as the sales will afford. In the case of females and others, whose labour may be less productive, a reduced seale of charges for board will be made. And all who are fully able, may be permitted or required to board elsewhere.

These are the leading features of the department of industry already begun with suecess, and which it is proposed to extend, as eireumstanees admit, into further usefulness. It is not expected that the pupils at the close of their terms will pass, as a matter of course, from the Institution into the "Home" Department. On the contrary, our policy is not to build up a community of blind persons beyond the pressing elaims of those who could not provide for themselves elsewhere. We think it altogether preferable that they should go forth into the world and strive while there is hope. Indeed, while there is any prospect of suecess, this is here required. There are many noble examples of blind young men, occupying very respectable and useful situations, by the exertions of their own unaided talent and industry. We are happy to refer to such honourable instances of the achievements of mind over difficulties which the community too generally suppose to be insurmountable. Examples well

calculated to stimulate the more timid, and give confidence to all, have been produced in our own Institution, in both sexes; and are living evidence of intellectual attainments and useful application of those attainments for self-support after leaving the Institution.

The following list exhibits the names of a number of the former pupils of this Institution, and how they have been since engaged.

- 1. Mr. Jacob Berry, (deceased), late Principal of the Tennessee Institution for the Blind.
- 2. Mr. Hugh Coyle, Teacher on the Piano Forte, Harrisburg, Pa.
- 3. Mr. Augustus Cruser, Assistant Teacher of Handicraft, Pennsylvania Institution.
- 4. Mr. MITCHEL B. CLARK, Music Teacher, Georgia Academy for the Blind, Macon, Georgia.
- 5. Mr. W. H. Churchman, Principal, Indiana Institute for the Blind, Indianapolis.
- 6. Mr. Jonathan Dyer, Vocalist and Teacher of Music, Philadelphia.
- 7. Miss Sarah A. Dandy, Teacher of Music, Pennsylvania Institution.
- 8. Mr. W. S. Fortescue, Principal, Georgia Academy for the Blind.
- 9. Miss Hannah Guillan, First Teacher, Georgia Academy for the Blind.
- 10. Miss Maria Gill, Music Teacher, Pennsylvania Institution.
- 11. Mr. Jewett Gray, Principal Teacher, Virginia Institution.
- 12. Mr. Wm. Graham, Music Teacher, Virginia Institution.

- 13. Mr. RICHARD GUYN, Music Teacher, Mercersburg, Pa.
- 14. Miss M. Hankins, Teacher, Pennsylvania Institution.
- 15. Miss R. Leard, Assistant Teacher of Handicraft, Pennsylvania Institution.
- 16. Mr. D. Loughery, Teacher, Pennsylvania Institution.
- 17. Mr. Abm. Marsh, Organist and Music Teacher, Trenton, N. J.
- 18. Mr. Saml. M'GIFFIN, Teacher of Handicraft, Indiana Institution.
- 19. Mr. J. E. S. Magruder, Music Teacher, Baltimore, Md.
- 20. Mr. Edw. Mack, Church Organist, and Music Teacher, Pennsylvania Institution.
- 21. Miss Sarah Marsh, late Teacher, Indiana Institution, now respectably married.
- 22. Mr. S. Pyle, (deceased), late Music Teacher, Pennsylvania Institution.
- 23. Mr. Jos. Ramsey, Teacher of Music, Tennessee Institution for the Blind.
- 24. Mr. Eli Whelan, Principal, Missouri Institution for the Blind, St. Louis, Mo.

Other graduated pupils are variously and usefully engaged, some in music, others in the mechanical branches acquired in the Institution.

We would deprecate the discouragements that have sometimes been put forth, both in our own reports and elsewhere, in which elaborate arguments have been used to show the mental and physical inferiority of the blind, and their inability to compete with seeing persons. We think their difficulties have been greatly though unintentionally magnified. And even if not, such disparaging and dishearting appeals, which are always read to them, are well calculated to deter the strong and paralyze the feeble. We know such effect is not intended, and the object has been to prove the necessity of providing employment for them, by the institutions where they belong.

In reference to the foregoing general rules for the regulation of our industrial establishment, I remark—

- 1. It should properly continue under the direction of the same Board, though a separate department, for none can be so competent to promote the happiness and welfare of its inmates, as those who are acquainted with their previous history and capacities.
- 2. Workshops of the blind do not fully pay their expenses, when the cost of supervision, waste of material in beginners and expenses of selling, are taken into the account. But the deficiency is small compared with the useful results. For example—

The Massachusetts Institution shows a loss on its workshops, last year, of 461 dollars.

The New York Institution reports an apparent loss, including the salaries of instructors, of 1159 dollars, or, deducting these, as may properly be done, about 200 dollars.

The loss in our own workshops for the past year has been \$201.44.

All these losses do not exceed an average of four per eent. on the amount of goods sold in the same year in the three institutions named.

But these statements comprehend the whole department of labour, including the children who go through a regular apprenticeship, working but two or three hours a day while attending school.

The deficiency of an Industrial Establishment, where there are no learners merely, may be fairly stated as its annual cost. If, for example, it contains fifty inmates, and its annual expenses exceed its profits by \$1200, it would show that fifty persons could be comfortably supported, with employment, at a cost to the department of only \$25 each per year. A sum of \$20,000 invested at 6 per cent., would be sufficient to endow an establishment of that number for ever. It would be hardly possible to show, in the whole range of benevolent operations, more happy results from such a small expenditure.

In such an estimate of the aggregete expenditure I have assumed that some would fully pay their way, while others of less skill and energy might not pay over half or two-thirds the cost of their maintenance. The beneficent feature of this plan would be to help the weak with the strong, the one who can make two dollars a week as well as him who can earn four or five dollars; in short, to make every one a producer to the extent of his ability, instead of casting him off into a condition of idleness, pauperism and hopeless misery.

3. As it is evident that some means will be needed, and in no case is the Institution for instruction ever to be chargeable with its support, except in the appropriation of its occasional surplus, it remains to inquire, how is the work department to be supported beyond its own receipts? This should depend upon the income of a permanent fund to be derived from donations, and, chiefly, from legacies. Several millions

of dollars have been bequeathed in this eity alone, within the last quarter of a century, for charitable institutions. The same spirit of Christian liberality undoubtedly still exists; and with the greatly augmented wealth of the community, it is reasonable to expect that many hundred thousand dollars will be devised within the next twenty years for similar good objects. Not a year flows round that does not reveal some munificent bequests to the institutions which are the pride of our city and State. Now the law of charitable dispositions must be uniform like any other law. What men have done, other men, similarly affected, will do again. We may therefore infer, with an almost logical conclusion, and certainly with a most reasonable expectation, that it is simply necessary to present to the public, in truthful language, the pressing wants and the comprehensive benevolence of this great object of providing a home and employment for the industrious blind; and when the truly benevolent and Christian heart is "devising liberal things," this eause eannot fail to be remembered with others. It will be not the least gratifying reflection, in bequeathing such a blessing, that it is bestowed not upon the idle, nor upon those who cannot appreciate it, but upon the industrious, the intelligent and worthy, and beautifully fulfilling, in their afflicted condition, the old adage, that "God helps those who help themselves." appropriate to state in this place, as an earnest of the favour which this plan may be expected to receive, that notice of its commencement was hardly made public, before a donation of five hundred dollars, and afterwards another of one hundred dollars, were reeeived from two of our most respectable and benevolent citizens, gentlemen as capable of selecting objects worthy of support as they are generous to bestow it. And since that time other gifts have followed, all of which, with future sums, given or bequeathed to the same object, will be faithfully invested as its foundation of permanent support.

The continuance of each blind person connected with this department, rests entirely with the discretion of the Board. The regulation of its expenditure, and its real usefulness, are thus fully under their control. If it should, for good reasons, be proper to oblige its abler workmen to seek other boarding places, or permit them to exercise their free choice in the matter, this may easily be done without wrong to any one. If, on the other hand, there are worthy young men, and young women, who with their utmost exertions may be unable to earn more than one or two dollars a week, it is still a question to be decided according to all the circumstances of each case, whether to retain such persons or discharge them altogether.

It will be remembered in the decision of some such cases, that in their discharge there are none to receive them—no other workshops to give them employment. If they fail to support themselves fully here, where every thing is adapted to their peculiar privation, with the advantages of tools, machinery, shop-room, supervision, &c., all furnished at hand, there certainly cannot be the shadow of a prospect for their employment elsewhere. It is but a forlorn hope, that the community will not let them suffer. What is "every body's business" would too truly in this, be "nobody's business." If our self-protection demands this, it de-

mands it at too dear a sacrifice. If the boasted remark be true, that the blind boy has in justice the same right to an education as the seeing boy, why does not the same principle of justice demand that he have an equal privilege of labouring for his support? If it is just to pay something more for his education because he is blind, is it not equally just that we should pay a small sum to keep him employed, and thus compensate in some measure for the inequality between himself and the seeing workman?

I am not prepared to say that every appeal to our humanity of this kind should be answered, and that the imbecile and the helpless should be received. I would have it mainly a vigourous and self-sustaining establishment. A wise and humane discretion must judge of the extent of this. Neither should we narrow down our operations to a rigid rule, which would exclude one-half at least of those whose claims are as just as the most favoured of that class.

But the consideration thus far has been confined mainly to the question of support—of dollars and cents. It has a higher, a moral aspect, of controlling importance. If the destiny of those who are discharged, without homes and without employment, is a hopeless one in view of their support—if in their penniless and friendless condition their only resource is a vagrant dependence on way-side charities or the poor house, what must be the moral prospect of such hapless individuals! What a melancholy reverse for one who had been kindly cherished and trained with christian care, in an Institution founded expressly for his benefit, and with pledges not only implied, but solemnly recorded, for his future welfare! What to

him now is the value of his expensive education? Where now the moral and intellectual resources to refresh and gratify his awakened powers and finer sensibilities? Where now the opportunities of exerting the skill and habits of industry which he has acquired? A blight has fallen upon all his powers and his prospects, and he is, morally speaking, in a more unhappy condition than before the Institution rescued him from gross darkness. It has raised him to new life and hope, only to make his fall and desolation greater. An enlightened humanity can never permit a settled policy, which must actually produce such lamentable results.

One of the reasons urged in favour of obliging the workmen to board out, and of discharging those who cannot thus pay their expenses, is that when congregated together it confirms and pepetuates the peculiarities which blind people may have, and produces a clannish spirit. Admitting all that is said of this, I do not consider it of serious importance; and in a moral point of view it is of infinitely less consequence than the exposure and ruin which must inevitably attend the other course.

Another reason alleged for this course, is that by retaining a community of blind persons, we may hereafter burden it with the sick and the infirm, and thus impair its vigour and usefulness. This is entitled to much more consideration than the other. Your attention was called to it, as a tendency to be guarded against, in my report two years ago.

It is certain that the blind will grow old and infirm, and be subject to all the ills of humanity, like others. But shall we therefore abandon them? There

would be no more wisdom and safety in this, than to elose our eyes when there is danger. Shall we not rather inquire—since the question sooner or later must be forced upon us—Cannot a practical plan be devised by which all proper cases shall be provided for, and the Home for the industrious be free from the charge of the really inefficient and helpless?

I believe such a plan to be not only practicable, but, prospectively, exceedingly desirable. Twenty or thirty years must pass before the necessity of such a provision will exist; and we might here say, "sufficient to the day is the evil thereof," were it not that this difficulty is apprehended by some in the building up of any establishment for the employment of the blind.

To provide against all such fears, it will become expedient hereafter to establish a proper ASYLUM FOR THE RETIREMENT OF THE INFIRM AND FEEBLE BLIND. It might form a separate department of the Industrial Home, or be a distinct establishment, as future circumstances should dictate.

Such an asylum for the aged blind, would be sustained in part, doubtless, by a benevolent fund raised for its support—or it might be provided for out of the Home fund, as a department of that Institution. And there is no reasonable doubt that it would be aided by a small legislative provision, even as other benevolent institutions which extend their benefits throughout the Commonwealth are now aided. Or the support of each inmate might by law be charged to the county from which he came, and which would be obliged to provide for his support, if discharged without the means of subsistence. But the question of

maintaining such a beneficent retreat need not be diseussed in detail here. The eost would not be great. A large dwelling-house would probably contain all proper subjects for the first twenty or thirty years of its existence.

Between a real asylum for respectable superannuated blind persons formerly connected with our institutions for education, and a poor house, we believe there would be *much* to choose. There are few even of the infirm who would not to the last, if opportunity were given, be able to give a few hours daily to the lighter branches of handicraft which they had learned. Music would be a source of consolation to others. And in various ways, their proximity to the Institution and its associations would tend to comfort their declining years, and relieve them from the lonely wretchedness that must inevitably attend them under any other condition of public support.

In this view of the subject, it will be perceived that the whole plan contemplates in its completeness, one institution in its three-fold capacity; or, more strictly, three separate departments or establishments, united under one administrative organization, and supported by two or three distinct funds, namely,—

- I. An Institution for the education of the Blind (as at present).
- II. A Home for the employment of the industrious Blind.
 - III. AN ASYLUM FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM BLIND.

The first, now in operation, would remain unchanged. The second, as stated, has already been elemented in connexion at present with the first. The third is prospective and remote, and may or may

not be ealled into being, as the exigency of the ease and the wisdom of a future Board may determine. Its entire feasibility is stated here, to show that there exists no necessary objection against a home department, as arising hereafter from inefficient members.

We should not be discouraged by any reference to the hospitals of Europe for the adult blind. They are mere pension establishments, and could no more compare with a healthy industrial department for employment here, than some of their feeble institutions for instructing the blind will compare with the energetic and flourishing institutions in the United States.

The "Quinze-Vingts," or hospital for 300 indigent blind, in Paris, is the only asylum for adults in Europe, deserving of particular notice here. It was founded in the year 1260, by St. Louis. Its object originally was to provide an asylum for blind soldiers. The inmates are encouraged to marry, and many of them have families. In some instances both man and wife are blind. When visited by the writer in 1845, there were 113 ehildren, and in all, 870 persons in the establishment. This number was divided into 245 distinct families, each having a separate domestic arrangement. No instruction or trades are given to the inmates. And in this respect it essentially differs from the plan proposed here. In my Report on the Benevolent Institutions of Europe, made six years since, to the Legislature of Ohio, I said of the "Quinze-Vingts." "It is not to be eonsidered a model for any similar establishment in the United States. Whatever asylums shall be founded hereafter for our older blind, they will be such as to eall into activity all their industrial powers. They will be

truly workshops for the industrious blind." This view has been confirmed by further experience.

But whatever exceptions may be taken to some of the features of the Paris hospital, there can be no doubt that it is providing a comfortable home for hundreds of the indigent blind of France—who would otherwise be wandering about, begging alms, as thousands of others of the same class now waiting for the first vacancies, to be admitted. They probably feel as all others would, that a comfortable support in an asylum is better than no support at all.

The blind, trained and educated in the institutions of this country, are a very different class from the pauper blind of Europe. In no case do we receive any who are not of correct habits and of sound mind and body, our physicians' certificate to that effect being always required. Even then, to be admitted into the "home" department, the candidate must have passed with credit through the usual term of instruction in the Institution, or, at least a four years' probation in the workshop alone, before he can be admitted. He may however receive wages in the work shop after he has been there one year.

It is an important fact, not to be overlooked in all these discussions, that the blind are very few in number compared with the whole population: not perhaps exceeding in this country one to every 3000 inhabitants. Public provision for the destitute of this class, therefore, is not to be confounded with eleemosynary institutions in general, where the beneficiaries are numerous and indefinite in number. All really worthy cases may be embraced by a regular

system of employment and support, in perfect safety with a stated amount of means.

The opinion put forth by a respectable authority, that "the blind, morally speaking, grow blinder by living together," is not in my opinion correct. Blind children at home, are rarely trained wisely. They mingle schom with seeing children, and when they do, they are looked upon as blind children usually are—as unable to help themselves. And worse than all, with strangers they are treated with a morbid sympathy, whose tones of pity schom fail to mortify and repel them; and thus they grow up with a depressing sense of misfortune and helpless dependence.

The moment such a child enters an institution for instruction, his treatment and all the influences around him are of a different character. Amidst cheerful voices and active footsteps—the sweet tones of music and the busy sounds of industry every where about him, awaken him to new life, and he is not a mere passive spectator of the animating scene; he immediately forms a part of it. He exchanges his habits of listlessness and idleness for a life of mental and physical action. New moral feelings and responsibilities spring up, and he is now treated, perhaps for the first time, like a rational being: the language of pity is never heard except by an occasional inconsiderate visiter, who represents the world from which he has just emerged. His instructors scarcely recognise his blindness as an infirmity. On the contrary, the moral of their teaching, and of all the influences around him is, that there is no difficulty with him who faithfully perseveres.

We assume then, as true, that a blind person

brought up with his fellow blind in an institution will always be more rational and even more like sceing persons in habit and feeling, than one trained up at home. We admit there are some disadvantages which are inseparable from the seclusion of a public institution—and these might, under certain favourable circumstances, be obviated or remedied by living in separate families. But they become of inferior importance compared with the beneficial results of the present organization of our institutions, all things considered.

We do not agree, therefore, that it would be desirable, if practicable, to change the plan of our institutions, as suggested, so as to make them merely schools of instruction like the public day schools. Neither the Institutions for the Blind nor the Deaf and Dumb, could be properly conducted on such a plan. The children would be exposed to other and adverse influences. It would be extremely inconvenient and much more expensive, and the supposed advantages would not justify a risk and sacrifice so great.

It may be possible, indeed, as has been sometimes suggested, that orphan asylums, and charitable institutions of a similar character, may be conducted on a different plan; that instead of congregating the children in single establishments, they be distributed among decent families, subject to the control, as at present, of boards of directors. And perhaps an extremely rigid economist might prove that it would be more economical, as well as efficient, to invest the large funds usually expended on buildings in such way as to augment the annual income, and thus extend the benefit to large numbers. But whatever

might be advanced in favour of such a scheme in regard to other institutions, we are quite satisfied it could not be entertained here, nor is it probable that it would be practicable any where.

It is nevertheless desirable that in most of our public institutions for children, more domestic influence should prevail,—that softening and chastening influence which is constantly imparted by mothers and sisters at the family fire-side. Boys always become more or less rude and difficult of management when taken young from home, and thrown into constant intercourse with other boys in our public institutions. Without the gentle and affectionate moral training which the female heart and female patience and perseverance alone can exercise, their discipline becomes of necessity a matter of force and fear. It is not desirable, in general, that children should be taken from their family homes before they are ten years old.

Appended to this Report is a statement of the operations of our manufacturing department for the past year. It exhibits a continual improvement on former years. By the aid of the store on Sixth and Market streets, we have been able to keep down the stock of manufactured goods on hand, which formerly threatened to embarrass our work department by a constant accumulation. Notwithstanding the value of the goods manufactured has increased from \$4055.70, in 1850, to \$4784.64, in 1851, the sales have increased in a corresponding amount, from \$3867.16, in 1850, to \$4588.18, in 1851, being an increase of \$721.02, or about 19 per cent.

The amount paid to the workmen and pupils for wages and over-work, during 1850, was \$1074.31;

the amount paid in 1851 has been \$1818.48; increase \$744.17, or near 70 per cent.

In manufacturing goods to the amount of nearly \$5000 (as exhibited in another table), and paying to the blind the sum of nearly \$2000, the loss to the work department has been but \$201.44. In other words, it has cost the Institution in this department only eleven dollars for every \$100 it has bestowed upon its industrious inmates in wages.

The accounts of the work department are made up by charging it with the stock and goods on hand the previous year, and the purchases during the year, with the rent of the store and salary of salesman, &c.; and crediting it with the amount of sales during the year, value of goods, and stock remaining on hand, &c. No charge is made for the salaries of teachers in that department. They are required in the business of instructing the pupils and general supervision, as much as teachers in music or any other department of the Institution. They are therefore charged to the department of instruction. But if all the direct pecuniary benefits of the Institution to its blind are estimated, as they should be, we must include that intelligent and useful portion of our graduated pupils, who are engaged in the instruction of music and other classes. These receive in salaries and board, \$1184 a year, which, added to the amount paid to those engaged in the work department. makes the sum of \$3002.48 annually dispensed by the Institution to the blind in its employment.

And the true value of this compensation is to be found in the fact that this sum is not given as a charitable bounty, but as a just bestowment for services

rendered. The value of the *moral* and *intellectual* advantages constantly flowing from the Institution to its hundred pupils, supplying the means of usefulness and a comfortable independence through life, can never be estimated in dollars and cents.

In reference to the abstract question of *profit and* loss with the workshops of the blind, a plan has been proposed in Indiana and New York, of connecting the manufacturing department with private enterprise, "upon the principle of personal interest in those having its supervision."

There are doubtless some obvious advantages in such a plan. Private interest, connected also with a vigorous business already established, might infuse additional energy in the work department, and remove the paralyzing effects of accumulating stocks of unsold goods.

On the other hand, there are dangers to apprehend in all plans which, in a measure, surrender the control of the pupils into other hands. The master of the work department would have but a single object, to make the largest profit out of the labour, and this would not always be consistent with the highest *improvement* of the pupil. Dull and unskilful learners, whose instruction and labour would be a loss, might be neglected, while the more active and promising would be favoured. The Institution, however, acting for the common benefit of all, dispenses its blessings equally upon the weak and the strong.

This plan of connecting the work department with private interest was used for some years in the workshops of the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb in Ohio, and was not found to work well. The experiment, however, under different eireumstanees, may be favourable, and eertainly deserves eonsideration. We shall anxiously wait the results of the trial elsewhere.

In eonelusion, the whole subject is with great deference and self-distrust submitted to the better judgment of your honourable body, with a humble reliance on the wisdom of the Almighty Dispenser of all good to direct us safely in all duty.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM CHAPIN,

January 1, 1852.

Principal.

APPENDIX.

STATEMENTS EXHIBITING THE CONDITION OF THE MANUFAC-TURING DEPARTMENT.

List of Articles made in the Institution in 1851.

BY MALE WORKMEN.

1,025 Clamps,

763 Horse Brushes,

1.189 Hat

3.472 Hair

195 Sweeping Brushes,

2,877 Shoe **302** Wall

do.

120 Lev

do.

17,958 Handserubs,

25 Other descriptions,

27,926 Brushes.

121 Willow Baskets,

361 yards Carpet,

91 Mattrasses and Bolsters renewed,

320 Door Mats,

28,458 articles, valued at

\$4123 67

BY FEMALES.

2919 Baskets and other articles of Bead work,

11 Zephyr Baskets,

11 Guard Chains,

38 Lamp Mats,

38 yards Lace,

20 Purses.

18 Pin Cushions,

6 Retieules,

5 pairs Knit Slippers,

26 pairs Knit Socks,

35 Tidies,

24 Doilies,

1 Cradle Quilt,

110 articles of various kinds,

	Brought forward,	\$4123	67
	Sewing.		
	6 Childrens' Dresses, 22 Pillow Cases, 12 Kerchiefs, 8 Sheets, 151 Towels,		
	3460 articles, valued at	\$660	97
	Total manufactured in 1851, -	\$4784	64
	WORKSHOP.		
	DR.		
То	estimated value of finished and unfinished goods on		
	hand, January 1, 1851,	\$2101	64
,,	Value of raw material on hand, same date,	722	00
••	Cost of raw material bought in 1851,	2817	09
,,	Wages and overwork paid to workmen and pupils,		
	viz. to males, \$1387 87		
,,	Females, 430 61		
		1818	48
,,	Paid for finishing brushes, boring blocks, &c	452	77
,,	Rent of store, Sixth and Market streets,	300	00
,,	Salary of salesman,		00
"	Wages of boy, porterage, &c	104	00
,,	Good debts due the work department, Jan. 1, 1851,	225	00
		\$8840	98
	CR.	\$00,10	00
Bv	amount of sales, in 1851, at the Institution, \$1318 34		
	Do. do. at the store, 3269 84		
	·	\$4588	18
Ву	value of finished and unfinished goods on hand, Jan.		
2	1, 1852,	2001	68
By	value of raw material on hand, Jan. 1, 1852,	908	56
	Amount paid by adults for board,	570	00
	Good debts due the work department, Jan. 1, 1852,	57 1	12
		\$8639	54
	Balance,	201	
		\$8840	
			_

	40
\$\\ 10,955 05 10,955 05 30 00 5,300 00 100 00 587 89 812 50 850 00	\$30,150 72
By Cash paid sundry Orders of the Board, chargeable as follows:— For the use of the Committee of Instruction, For the use of the Household Committee, For the use of the Committee on the Home, By Cash paid to Wm. R. Lejee, Treasurer of the Building Committee, By Cash paid legal expenses of Cook's estate, By Cash paid legal expenses of the workshop and jobbing, Do. Treasurer's salary, 15 months, Do. to three graduate pupils,	
\$10,500 00 1,000 00 500 00 199 50 7,127 77 3,656 60 36 59 405 10 1,107 33	1,533 80 605 00 78 30 80 00 5 50 \$26,785 49
LS.	o. from sundry legacies, viz. By Mrs. E. D. Stott, By Mrs. Ann M-Donald, By Pierre Antoine Blénon, 200 00 } o. from Thomas P. Cope, donation to the "Home Fund," from James Bayard, Esq., o. from Jomas White, Esq., from Thomas White, Esq., from Thomas White, Esq., o. from annual contributors, from 1 year's interest on R. Ronaldson's legacy, from 1 year's interest on Paul Beek's legacy,
To Cas Do. Do. Do. Do. Do.	

The Committee of Finance have examined the Treasurer's accounts, and compared the same with the vouchers produced in support \ Committee of Finance. WM. R. LEJEE, ISAAC ELLIOTT, Examined and found correct—January 24, 1852.

FRANKLIN PEALE,

A. V. PARSONS,

and Inspection. thereof, and find the same correct.

LIST OF PUPILS.

From Pennsylvania.

Bertram, Wm. D. Brennan, James, Brooks, Henry, Brown, J. Calvin, Brownlee, Augustus, Cummings, Alexander, Clayborn, John B. Dubbs, Cyrus, Frey, Henry, Gamble, William G. Griffiths, David, Harris, Benj. F. Ireland, W. J. Karrigan, Ambrose, Kerr, Samuel, Klotz, Henry, Lewis, William, M'Elrevy, Richard, Paist, Samuel R. Platt, William, Porter, Edgar M. Rogers, Charles, Steiner, John L. Stone, George, Stahlnecker, Wm. H. Spencer, John T. Stewart, Gabriel P. Wheaton, Robert, Wood, David, Weaver, Peter, Witcher, Bernard. Yorke, William,

Aiken, Phebe Ann, Butz, Frances, Drinkwalter, Hester A. Philadelphia county. Schuylkill county. Dauphin county. Do. Philadelphia county. Westmoreland county. Franklin county. Lebanon county. Chester county. Philadelphia county. Schuylkill county. Philadelphia county. Do. Schuylkill county. Bucks county. Carbon county. Bradford county. Allegheny county. Bucks county. Philadelphia county. Luzerne county. Philadelphia county. Columbia county. Philadelphia county. Lehigh county. Montgomery county. Allegheny county. Philadelphia county. Allegheny county. Blair county. Huntingdon county. Philadelphia county.

Allegheny county.
Monroe county.
Bradford county,

Doherty, Eliza,

Erskine, Emma,

Frisard. Fleurine.

Haslem, Ellen,

Lennon, Anna,

M'Cullogh, Isabella,

Neill, Mary Jane,

Osborne, Eliza,

Pfahler, Catharine, Souder, Caroline,

Smith, Lavinia,

Street, Rachel,

Starrett, Mary Ann,

Twining, Louisa K.

Philadelphia county.

Do.

Do.

Dο.

Allegheny county.

Philadelphia county.

Do.

Do.

Juniata county.

Perry county.

Juniata county.

Allegheny county.

Philadelphia county.

Montgomery county.

From Maryland.

Brown, Benj. T.

Basford, Emory S.

Basford, Margaret C.

Beatty, Anna,

Collison, Sarah C.

Colburn, Hobard H.

Jones, John S. T. Newcomer, Alexander,

Newcomer, Ellen,

Talbert, Margaret A.

Wilson, Elizabeth A.

From New Jersey.

Cook, John E.

Cruser, Catharine,

Hunt, Mary E.

Hildreth, Hannah, Lawrence, Rachel L.

Stackhouse, Elizabeth,

Garton, Nathaniel.

From Delaware.

D'Ouville, Augusta,

D'Ouville, Celoza,

Kees, Hannah.

From Virginia.

Jane Womack.

From N. Carolina.

Penelope Raynor.

From New York.
Frederick Fielding.

From Arkansas.

John W. Stout.

From China.
Fanny Gutzlaff.

Assistant Pupils.

Cruser, Augustus, Dandy, Sarah A. Guillan, Hannah, Gill, Maria, Mack, Edward, Hankins, Matilda, Pyle, Samuel, Leard, Rachel,

Loughery, David.

In the Home Department.

Cruser, Matilda,
Donnely, Mary,
Fennimore, Elizabeth A.
Fithian, Annie,
Henderson, Nancy,
Lynch, Sarah,
Mallett, Mary A.
Gutzlaff, Fanny,

Carolin, Thomas,
Besant, Peter,
M'Cabe, Michael,
Kinney, Michael,
M'Closkey, James,
Peoples, James J.
Raney, Rebecca,
Cormany, Maria,

Westby, Emma.

Pupils and Adults in the Workshop only.

Folwell, James M. Denning, Robert,
Fernandoz, Carlos, Selkirk, John G.
Hunter, William, M.Menamy, Michael.

RECAPITULATION. From Penn'a (pupils in the school studies),		Males. 32	Females.	Total
New Jersey,	do.	2	5	7
Maryland,	do.	5	6	11
Delaware,	do.		3	3
Other States,	do.	2	3	5
Assistants,			5	9
Home (work) Department,			11	17
In the Workshop only,				6
Whole number,			$\frac{-}{50}$	107

Total from the State of Pennsylvania,	76
From all other places,	31

Total, 107

TERMS.

For pay pupils, two hundred dollars a year, which includes board, instruction in all the departments, and medical attendance;—clothing to be found by the parents.

Blind children, in indigent circumstances, from the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware, are provided for by those States, respectively, for the term of eight years.

The most suitable time for admission is between the ages of ten and fifteen years. Pupils are not usually received under ten; nor over seventeen years of age, except for a more limited period, to learn some useful handicraft.

Applications may be addressed to Franklin Peale, Esq. U. S. Mint, Chairman of the Committee of Admission and Discharge, or to the Principal.

Vacation continues six weeks, between 15th July and 1st September. It is very desirable that pupils commence with the term in September.

FORM OF A LEGACY.

I hereby give and bequeath to "The Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind," in Philadelphia, and their successors forever (if real estate), all that, &c.; (if personal), the sum of, &c.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The Institution is situated at the corner of Schuylkill Third and Race streets, and is convenient of access by several lines of omnibusses, viz. the Race street line, which passes the premises, the Vine and Arch street lines, which pass the corner of Vine and Schuylkill Third, within one square, and the Walnut street line.

The Institution is open to visiters, residing in the city, on Wednesday afternoons, from 3 to 5 o'clock. An opportunity is afforded from 3 to 4 to examine the work-rooms; and at 4 o'clock a concert of vocal and instrumental music is given, with an exhibition of the apparatus used in the instruction of the pupils. Owing to the impossibility of accommodating the large crowds that attend these exhibitions, when free, a very small admission fee is now charged.

Fancy articles and brushes are offered for sale, before and after the exhibition, in the girls' work-room, for the benefit of the pupils.

A store is opened at No. 1, SOUTH SIXTH STREET, corner of Market, for the sale of goods manufactured in the Institution, where Hair, Cloth, Hat, Shoe and Horse Brushes, Hand-scrubs, Door Mats, of coir, manilla and jute, and Rag Carpet are furnished, wholesale and retail—made in the best manner and of excellent materials, and at the lowest market prices. Orders are respectfully solicited.









